

REMARKS:**I. In the Claims**

Claims 13-24 are pending in the current application. Claims 20-22 stand rejected; claims 13-19 and 23 stand allowed. Claim 24 stands previously allowed but not addressed in the June 27, 2006 Office Action. Claims 20-22 are canceled herein.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Blankenship (U.S. 6,267,291). Claim 21 has been canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Claims 20 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in light of Blankenship ('291) and Chapman (U.S. 3,651,704). Claims 20 and 22 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner has indicated in the June 27, 2006 Office Action that claims 13-19 and 23 are allowable in their current form, and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 24

Claim 24 depends from allowable claim 17, and as such, should also be allowable. Further, the examiner previously indicated (i.e. in the 2/28/2006 Office Action) that claim 24 is allowable in its current form. The applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 24 in addition to claims 13-19 and 23.

II. Reasons for Allowance

The applicant appreciates the examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter provided with the 6/27/2006 Office Action. Although we are in agreement that the claims are allowable, we wish to emphasize that the claim language is controlling because the language in the statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter may be subject to different interpretations apart from the meaning of the actual claims. For these reasons, the applicant does not necessarily agree

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

AUG. 9. 2006 1:06PM LATHROP & GAGE

NO. 4023 P. 9

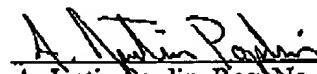
or disagree with everything that is stated in the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, but the applicant does agree that the claims are allowable.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, the applicant has addressed all issues raised in the Office Action dated June 27, 2006, and the applicant respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance. Should any issues remain, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

The applicant believes no fees are currently due; however, if any fee is deemed necessary in connection with this Amendment, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted,
LATHROP & GAGE LLC


A. Justin Roplin, Reg. No. 53,476
10851 Mastin Boulevard
Building 82, Suite 1000
Overland Park, Kansas 66210-1669
Tel No: 913-451-5130
Fax No: 913-451-0875

CWDOCS 466852v1

6

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/911,993
Amendment in Response to 6/27/2006 Office Action